

REMARKS

The office action of June 8, 2006 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto.

Claims 11 and 14 have been amended and claims 1-10, 13 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11-12 and 14-20 are pending in this application.

Regarding the objection to the specification, Applicant previously amended the specification consistent with the Examiner's request, including placement of the Abstract on a single page. For convenience, a courtesy copy of the previously filed response containing these modifications is included in an Appendix along with this response. Applicant anticipates the repeated objection to be a mere oversight as Applicant believes the application to be in conformance with all formality requirements.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 13-15; however Applicant also understands claim 16 to also be allowable based upon the Examiner's comments in the Office Action, as claim 16 is dependent from claim 15. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on December 7, 2006 and has amended claim 11 consistent with that agreed to during the interview including incorporation of the subject matter of allowable claim 13 into claim 11. Claims 12 and 14-18 depend from claim 11. Applicant has cancelled the remaining claims 1-10, 13 and 21.

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Response to Office Action Mailed June 8, 2006
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Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims in a continuation application. In light of the aforementioned, the rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot and all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant notes that payment for a three-month extension of time is included. Additionally, a Notice of Appeal has been filed concurrently herewith. If any additional fees are required or if any overpayment is made, the Commission is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 7, 2006

By: 

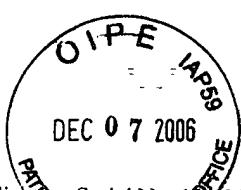
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ATTACHMENT: Amendment dated March 17, 2006

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/501,995
Response to Office Action Mailed June 8, 2006
Amendment Dated December 7, 2006

APPENDIX



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/501,995
Response to Office Action November 17, 2005
Amendment Dated March 17, 2006

COPY

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : ATTY DKT NO: 000137.00040
WILFRIED PINZL : Group Art Unit: 3677
SERIAL NO.: 10/501,995 : Examiner: F. Saether
FILED: January 19, 2005 :
FOR: SUPPORTING BUSHING :

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Randolph Building, Customer Service Window, Mail Stop
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2005, please amend the instant application as follows:

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 10 of this paper and include both replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including a new Abstract, annotated drawing figures and replacement sheets are attached following page 15 of this paper.

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Response to Office Action Mailed November 17, 2005
Amendment Dated March 17, 2006

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the current Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached
in the Appendix.

Amendments to the Specification:

After the title and before the first paragraph please insert the heading

Background Of The Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, lines 1-4, with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to a supporting sleeve, ~~said supporting sleeve being that is~~ introducible into a penetration in a component~~[,]~~ ~~wherein for the fixing of~~ ~~Further the component may be fixed on the carrier[.] so that the hole of said the~~ supporting sleeve is penetrated by a fixing pin, particularly a screw, ~~that is~~ insertable into the carrier.

On page 2, after line 2, and before line 3, insert the heading

Summary Of The Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, lines 7-11 with the following amended paragraph:

The object of the invention is achieved in that the supporting sleeve is formed in cross section as a closed ring and ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of axially extending recesses extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve, ~~wherein therefore~~, when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve, the walls of ~~said the~~ recesses come closer to each other as the bases of the recesses bend in.

On page 5, after line 15, and before line 16, insert the heading

Brief Description Of The Drawings

On page 6, after line 15, and before line 16, insert the heading

Detailed Description Of The Drawings

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 17-22, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1a shows the supporting sleeve 1A in a perspective view, the supporting sleeve 1 in this case comprising the four recesses 2, 3, 4 and 5. Said recesses are also apparent from the top view of the end face of the supporting sleeve 1A in Fig. 1b. The recesses are each formed by the two walls 6 and 7 as well as by the base 8. Extending between the recesses 2 to 5 are the bulges 9, 10, 11 and 12, which connect them.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 24-31, and continuing onto page 7, lines 1-6, with the following amended paragraph:

This design of the supporting sleeve 1A allows the supporting sleeve 1A to be radially compressed as a result of the flexibility of the material of the supporting sleeve and makes it possible for the supporting sleeve to be introduced into a penetration in a component, the diameter of said penetration being smaller than the diameter of the supporting sleeve shown in its relaxed position in Fig. 1 a and

b. When the supporting sleeve 1A is radially compressed, there results primarily a bending-in of the bases 8, the walls 6 and 7 coming closer to each other. This is accomplished in uniform manner owing to the uniform construction of the supporting sleeve in respect of all four recesses 2 to 5, this making it possible to achieve a considerable elasticity of the supporting sleeve 1A. With regard to the introduction of the supporting sleeve 1A and its function in a component, reference is made to the below-given explanatory remarks in relation to Fig. 5. It can be seen from Fig. 5 that the therein shown supporting sleeve 1A accepts a screw 13 in its hole 41.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6. Cancelled

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) Supporting sleeve according to claim 1, characterized in that the recesses (22, 23, 24, 25) are slightly axially elongated in comparison with the bulges (26, 27, 28, 29) which connect them.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) Supporting sleeve according to claim 1, characterized in that the bulges (26, 27, 28, 29) connecting the recesses (22, 23, 24, 25) form in cross section an axially continuous wave-like valley (30, 31, 32, 33).

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) Supporting sleeve according to claim 1, characterized in that the walls (35, 36) of the recesses (37) extend obliquely with respect to the readial direction (38) in such a manner that the recesses (37) each have a uniformly repeating skew position in relation to the radial direction (38).

Claim 10. Cancelled

11. (New) A supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) configured for introduction into a penetration (14) in a component (39), wherein a hole (41) of said supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) is penetrated by a fixing pin (13, 43) configured to be insertable into a carrier (40) so as to fix the component (39) on a carrier (40), comprising:

a closed ring-shaped cross section; and

a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and a base (8) connecting those walls, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being generally radially oriented and configured such that when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) upon introduction into the penetration (14), each recess moves closer to each other.

12. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) are uniformly distributed over the ring-shaped cross section.

13. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, the bases (8) of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) having inwardly pointing projections (15, 16, 17, 18) at one end of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) for captive holding of the fixing pin (13).

14. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 13, the projections (15, 16, 17, 18) being configured to form a constriction of the hole (41) of the supporting sleeve of the fixing pin (13), wherein the fixing pin (13) has a diameter greater than a diameter of the hole (41).

15. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 14, wherein the constriction is configured to support a washer (45) guided by the fixing pin (43).

16. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 15, further comprising three overlapping circular areas that determine an opening (48) of the washer (45), wherein a center point of each of said circular areas lies on a circular arc (55), wherein the circular arc has center points that coincide with the axis of the supporting sleeve and wherein the three center points of the circular areas are uniformly distributed on the circular arc (55).

17. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein the fixing pin is a screw.

18. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being sized in relation to the fixing pin such that the fixing pin cuts an internal thread when screwed into the supporting sleeve (1).

19. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein the supporting sleeve further comprises bulges between the recesses, the bulges providing the external contact surfaces for engaging the penetration when the supporting sleeve is introduced into the penetration.

20. (New) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein each base (8) is configured to bend inwardly in response to application of radial pressure upon introduction into the penetration (14).

21. (New) A supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) configured for introduction into a penetration (14) in a component (39), wherein a hole (41) of said supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) is penetrated by a fixing pin (13, 43) configured to

be insertable into a carrier (40) so as to fix the component (39) on a carrier (40), comprising:

a closed ring-shaped cross section; and
a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by three generally flat surfaces linked by two opposing elbow surfaces, two of the generally flat surfaces being inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and the third generally flat surface being a base (8) oriented between the opposing elbow surfaces, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being configured such that the recesses moves closer to each other when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) upon introduction of the supporting sleeve into the penetration (14).

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Response to Office Action Mailed November 17, 2005
Amendment Dated March 17, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the originally filed drawings with the Replacement Sheets attached in the Appendix. Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b have been amended to reflect the changes required by the Examiner. An annotated sheet of drawings showing these changes is attached.

Attachments: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b

2 Sheets of Formal Replacement Sheets of Figs. 1-8

REMARKS

The office action of November 17, 2005 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 6. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the Interview on March 7, 2006. Applicant has amended the application consistent with matters commonly agreed to during the interview and the application is now believed allowable in its entirety.

Specifically, Applicant has amended the labeling of certain figures in accordance with the Examiner's request. Applicant has also added new claims, each of the new claims containing one or more features commonly agreed to as not being taught or disclosed by the applied reference. Claims 1-6 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 11-21 have been added. Claims 7-9 have been withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skill in the art to make and/or use the invention, and under the

second paragraph of the same section for being indefinite and for failing to particularly point out the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-6 and 10, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Additionally, Applicant asserts new claims 11-21 satisfy all the requirements of 35 U.S.C §112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Genick (U.S. Pat. No. 6,478,519 hereinafter Genick). Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-4, thereby rendering the rejection moot. New claims 11-21 are allowable over Genick either alone or in combination with the other references of record.

Genick describes a bolt retaining article having a tubular body that extends through a longitudinal axis. The tubular body has a plurality of concave sections and a plurality of convex sections as well as an engaging arm extending outwardly from the tubular body to secure the bolt retaining article to the structure. *See Summary and Figs. 1, 2 and 6.*

As agreed to in the interview, Genick fails to teach or disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Claim 11 recites *inter alia*:

"...a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34),

each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and a base (8) connecting those walls, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being generally radially oriented and configured such that when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) upon introduction into the penetration (14), each recess moves closer to each other."

Here for example, Genick fails to teach or disclose a supporting sleeve "...with walls being generally radially oriented..." as recited in claim 11. Additionally, none of the references of record when combined with Genick cures this defect. For at least this reason, claim 11 is allowable.

Further, claims 12-20 depend from claim 11 and are allowable for all the reasons given above concerning claim 11, and further in view of their specific recitations that have not been shown to be in (or obvious from) the prior art.

Similarly, Genick fails to teach or disclose each and every element of claim 21. Claim 21 recites *inter alia*:

a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by three generally flat surfaces linked by two opposing elbow surfaces, two of the generally flat surfaces being inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and the third generally flat surface being a base (8) oriented between the opposing elbow surfaces, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being configured such that the recesses moves closer to each other when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) upon introduction of the supporting sleeve into the penetration (14).

With respect to claim 21, Genick fails to teach or disclose, for example "recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by three generally flat surfaces linked by two opposing elbow surfaces, two of the generally flat surfaces being inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and the third generally flat surface being a base (8) oriented between the opposing elbow surfaces..." Again, none of the references of record when combined with Genick cures this defect and thus claim 21 is allowable.

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CONCLUSION

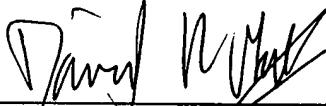
Applicant notes that a Petition for a one-month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith. If any additional fees are required or if any overpayment is made, the Commission is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, If for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 17, 2006

By:



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APPENDIX

ABSTRACT

A supporting sleeve configured for introduction into a penetration in a component. The hole of the supporting sleeve is penetrated by a fixing pin that is insertable into a carrier so as to fix the component on a carrier. The supporting sleeve includes a closed ring-shaped cross section and a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve and each of the recesses is formed by inwardly bent walls and a base connecting those walls, the walls being generally radially oriented and configured such that when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve upon introduction into the penetration, each recess moves closer to each other.

Annotated Sheet

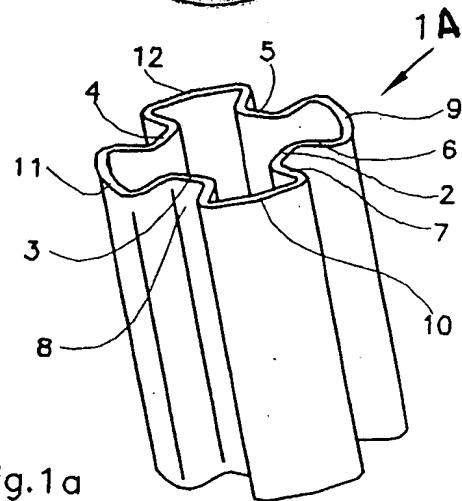
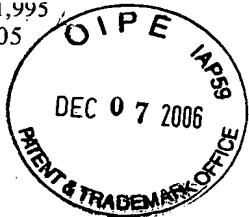


Fig. 1a

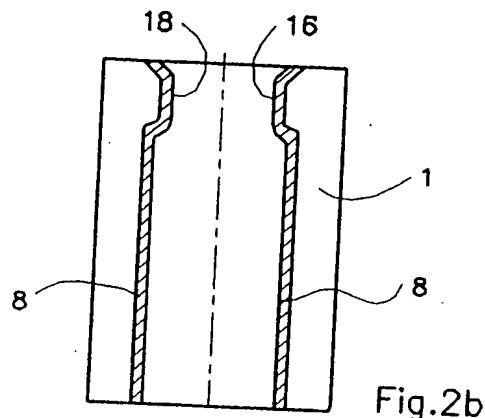


Fig. 2b

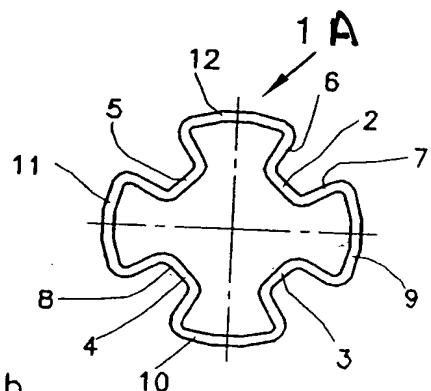


Fig. 1b

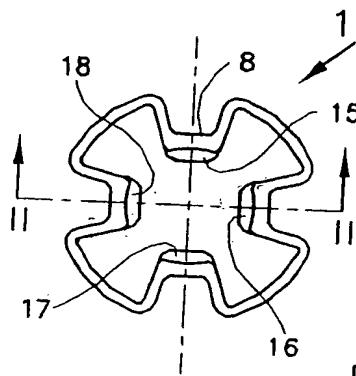


Fig. 2a

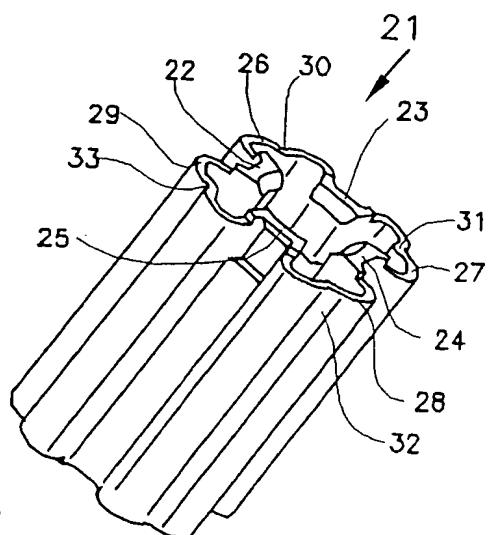


Fig. 3

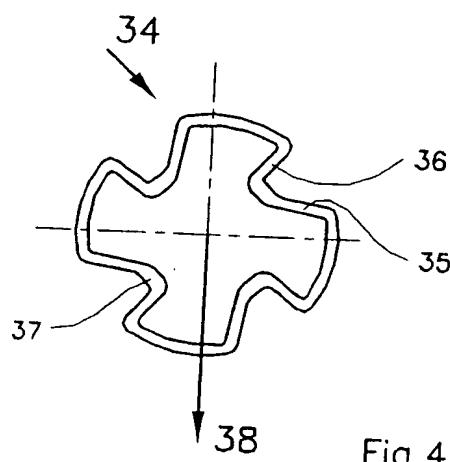


Fig. 4